



**CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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## **MINUTES**

### **AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008**

The Agricultural Development Task Force (AGTF) held a meeting on Monday, October 6, 2008, at 1:34 p.m. in the Council Committee Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 205, Honolulu Hale, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Yuki Kitagawa (Chair)  
Dean Okimoto (Vice Chair)  
Charley Ice  
Cal Lum  
Richard McCormack  
Jimmy Nakatani  
Kapu Smith

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ikaika Anderson	(Council Chair Marshall's Office)
Sharleen Oshiro	(Councilmember Romy Cachola's Office)
Robert Sumitomo	(Department of Planning and Permitting)
Kathy Sokugawa	(Department of Planning and Permitting)
Mark Takemoto,	(Dole/Castle & Cooke)

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 8, 2008 meeting were approved as circulated.

2. **IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Chair Kitagawa called on Kathy Sokugawa to update the AGTF on Act 233, Senate Bill 2646, which formally adopts certain financial incentives in preparation of identifying and designating Important Agricultural Lands (IAL). Ms. Sokugawa noted that Act 233 went into law without the Governor's signature.

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) will be proposing four amendments to Senate Bill 2646 as detailed in Communication D-758. Ms. Sokugawa reported that the proposed amendments reflected only DPP's perspective and had not been discussed outside of the Department. The DPP is open to input and suggestions from the AGTF.

Amendment #1 – Expedited Permit Processing

Ms. Sokugawa stated that because the State mandate is not funded, the DPP is requesting \$500,000 for certified third-party reviewers to expedite priority processing of building permits for Agricultural (Ag) products processing facilities. The change substitutes vague language with specific language.

It is difficult to estimate how many reviews the \$500,000 would fund, as the cost is dependent on different factors, such as the size of the project and the different ways charges are calculated by the reviewer.

Amendment #2 – IAL Identification

DPP proposed to redirect the identification and mapping of IAL by the State Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) identifying IAL lands, from submittal to the Land Use Commission (LUC) to the County Planning Departments for incorporation into the county mapping process.

The details required for submission to the LUC for IAL consideration have not yet been established. Therefore, it is not clear if the county's current maps would meet requirements for IAL.

Member Smith stated that she felt that the amendment would not support a regional view and suggested revisiting the 5-year boundary review.

Amendment #3 - Ag Water Plan

The proposed amendment requests the County Boards of Water Supply be included in the Ag Water Use Plan process. The Oahu Board of Water Supply has completed their watershed management plan and inventoried Ag uses within the Waianae and Koolauloa areas.

Ms. Sokugawa noted the request for funding for the Ag Water Use Plan would be up to the State or the Board of Water Supply.

Member Smith questioned the ability to proceed with mapping of IAL due to the DOA's exclusion of private water systems from the state's Ag Water Use Plan. A criterion of IAL designation is accessibility to economically feasible water for irrigation.

Ms. Sokugawa suggested that the City should be more involved in the water issue.

#### Amendment #4 – Employee Housing

DPP suggests deleting references to employee and employee housing because of the difficulty of enforcement. Each County should come up with its own definition.

The proposed amendments will be shared with the Boards of Water Supply, neighbor Island county planning departments, Land Use Resource Foundation (LURF), and the Farm Bureau for their review and input. The amendment package will be finalized by the end of the year for introduction at the next legislative session.

Member Smith requested the following issues be addressed as part of the IAL designation process:

- a) Establishing a rural classification on Oahu.
- b) Correcting the situation of existing homes that should not be on Ag zoned lands.
- c) Identifying what is housing, Ag and rural.
- d) Determining a category for lands not designated as IAL.

Other suggestions by the Task Force Members:

- a) Request that the Legislature fund the completion of the Ag Water Use Plan.

- b) Request a state department to administer the Ag Water Use Plan.
- c) A recommendation on Amendment #3 should be made for the next meeting.

Related Communication:

D-758 Justification Sheet for the Proposed 2009 City Legislative Bill to Amend Act 233 (2008)

3. AGRICULTURAL SUBDIVISIONS

Chair Kitagawa reported on the status of the requested opinions regarding the elimination of Ag subdivisions and the placement of restrictions into the Land Use Ordinance (LUO).

- a) Elimination of Ag subdivisions
  - Elimination of Ag subdivision is being considered because there seems to be no benefit to Ag.
  - Through Council Chair Marshall's office, the AGTF will again request an opinion from the DPP and Corporation Counsel on the impact and legality of the elimination of Ag subdivisions.
- b) Placement of restrictions into the LUO
  - Through Council Chair Marshall's office, the AGTF, will request an opinion from the DPP or appropriate agency on placing the following restrictions into the LUO:
    - Allowing only one dwelling unit on AG-1 or AG-2 lots.
    - Limiting the footprint of the polygon to 4,000 sq. ft.
    - Limiting the dwelling floor space to 1,500 sq. ft.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Kitagawa informed that the topic of allocation of funds for the Soil and Water Conservation District would be placed on the next agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 7, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.